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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: : Before the Examiner:
C. Thompson et al. : M. Huseman

Serial No.: 09/576,462 : Group Art Unit: 2161

Filed: May 23, 2000 :
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD :
FOR PROCESSING IMPORT/EXPORT :
TRANSACTIONS :
;

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

I hereby declare:

1. My name is Charles Norman, with an address at 3141 Wavecrest , Austin,
TX 78728.
2. I am not an employee of the Assignee of the above-identified patent
application.

3. Before July 30, 1999, I was informed by Cliff Burke Thompson, one of the inventors in the above-identified patent application, of the invention disclosed within the above-identified patent application. At that time, Mr. Thompson verbally informed me that he had conceived of a method for processing import/export transactions over a network whereby one or more items were to be transported from one country to another. An invoice containing a list of one or more part numbers (identifying the one or more items) was to be entered at a terminal in the network, and then this invoice data was to be transferred from that terminal over the network to a server hosting a database of part numbers and tariff classification numbers particular to each of the part numbers. A matching process was then to be performed within that server matching each of the part numbers from the invoice to the tariff classification numbers. A data record would then be output, which would include tariff classification numbers matched with each of the part numbers for the products to be imported. Such data records would be used to compile customs entry reports that could then be downloaded by customshouse brokers, importers, or freight forwarders for use in completing the import/export transaction.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this Declaration is directed.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles Norman